Internet document creation system and document-format generator therefor

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Inventor(s):	WARNOCK KEVIN L [US]; WU JOHN SHIH-JEN [US]
Applicant(s):	HOTPAPER COM INC [US]
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Abstract of **TW 487879 (B)**

A document creation system for providing an Internet service in which users with browsers at remote locations can look for an apporpriate document and format is provided. Such user fills-in-the-blanks and is returned a custom electronic document that can be printed or forwarded to another recipient. A document-creation webserver artends to Internet browsers who log-on and look for a product. Such users are qualified and handed-off to a job-master webserver. The hand-off provides metadata that was collected from the user, and schedules the job for the next available document processor. The jobs and metadata are stored in a database. Master documents are stored on disk. The document processor assigned to do the job collects the metadata from the database using a pointer provided in a job queue, and fetches a copy of the appropriate master document. The blanks in the master document copy are filled in using the metadata and/or other data, perhaps from a database, and the completed document is returned to the customer over the Internet. A backend local area network is used to provide a backbone for scaling larger document processor capacities in a modular fashion. Each document processor is deliberately put to sleep for 100 milliseconds each time it finds no job is waiting to be done in the queue, so as to reduce network congestion and improve system perfomance. In addition, a forms-generation system is provided which comprises a group of active server page files that run on a WINDOWS-NT platform with IIS and ASP. Each ASP file presents a graphical user interface that allows a lay-user to create mail-merge type word processor documents. Individual ASP files write appropriate HTML phrases in response to a user clicking buttons, entering text, and indicating various preferences.

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